

## Message

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**Subject:** USS Lead - Press

East Chicago press clips  
 US EPA Region 5 – prepared by the Office of Public Affairs  
 Dec. 18, 2017

WBEZ                                      Cleanup Costs For Lead-Contaminated Northwest Indiana Site Now 4 Times  
 Original Estimate  
 Indiana Public Broadcasting      East Chicago Superfund Cleanup To Cost Nearly 4 Times More  
 AP    EPA: East Chicago Cleanup To Cost 4 Times Original Estimate

<https://www.wbez.org/shows/wbez-updates/cleanup-costs-for-leadcontaminated-northwest-indiana-site-now-4-times-original-estimate/d1d1cfa5-760a-4c52-a3c4-5fa8eb808fc6>  
 Cleanup Costs For Lead-Contaminated Northwest Indiana Site Now 4 Times Original Estimate  
 Michael Puente  
 WBEZ, Michael Puente December 14, 2017

Cleanup costs for a lead-contaminated site in Northwest Indiana are now four times what the federal government originally estimated. In 2012, the U.S. EPA estimated the cost to clean up the so called USS lead superfund site in East Chicago at nearly \$23 million. The new estimate is nearly \$85 million. Maritza Lopez, who lives within the superfund site, says the higher amount may still not be enough. The cost, however, does not include clean up of the West Calumet housing complex, whose residents were evacuated last year due to lead contaminated soil. The EPA plans to meet with homeowners next month.

<http://wboi.org/post/east-chicago-superfund-cleanup-cost-nearly-4-times-more#stream/0>

East Chicago Superfund Cleanup To Cost Nearly 4 Times More

By Indiana Public Broadcasting, Nick Janzen, 12/15/17

The cleanup for part of an East Chicago, Indiana toxic waste site will cost nearly four times more than originally expected. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which oversees the site's cleanup, will open an opportunity for public comments Monday, Dec. 18.

The EPA initially estimated cleanup for the residential area of the USS Lead Superfund site would cost \$23 million. But, a new agency report says the estimate should be closer to \$85 million.

The agency says it will clean up this portion of the site in the same way. But, after it did more sampling, it found contamination is more severe than first believed.

Debbie Chizewer, an attorney with Northwestern University's Environmental Advocacy Clinic, says this has been a problem before.

"When this investigation of the Superfund site started, they took some samples and got some very high results," Chizewer says, "but then didn't say, 'Oh, we should check the next block.'"

Chizewer represents some residents in a lawsuit against the EPA. They want a larger say in the cleanup process. A federal judge will hear those arguments in January.

The revised estimate does not include cleanup costs for the now-abandoned West Calumet Housing Complex and Carrie Gosch Elementary School. The EPA report says it may have to change the proposed cleanup plan for that section.

The EPA will take public comments on the cleanup cost difference from Dec. 18 to Feb. 16, 2018. A public meeting will be held in January at Carrie Gosch.

<http://indianapublicmedia.org/news/epa-east-chicago-cleanup-cost-4-times-original-estimate-134667/>

EPA: East Chicago Cleanup To Cost 4 Times Original Estimate

AP, Dec. 14, 2017

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says the estimated cost of cleaning up lead and arsenic in a northwestern Indiana city has ballooned to nearly four times initial estimates.

An EPA document released Friday says the anticipated cleanup cost for two residential zones in East Chicago are expected to increase from the original \$22.8 million estimate to a new estimate of \$84.9 million.

The Post-Tribune reports the EPA says it based the initial cost estimate on sampling done at 7 percent of the homes in the two residential areas. But now that testing has been done at 90 percent of the properties, the EPA says that data revealed more remediation requiring more resources.

The EPA designated the areas that once housed a lead-salvage company as a Superfund cleanup site in 2009.